Τ	SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA MEMORIAL
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5	SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SUPREME COURT
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11	3:00 p.m.
12	Friday, November 4, 2016
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18	Courtroom
19	Supreme Court of the United States
20	Washington, D.C.
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1	CONTENTS	
2	AGENDA ITEM	PAGE
3	PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS	
4	IAN H. GERSHENGORN, Acting Solicitor	
5	General of the United States	3
6	REQUEST TO ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS	
7	LORETTA E. LYNCH, Attorney General of the	
8	United States	10
9	RESPONSE	
10	JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., Chief Justice	
11	of the United States	14
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

Τ	PROCEEDINGS
2	(3:00 p.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The Court is in
4	Special Session this afternoon to receive the
5	resolutions of the Bar of the Supreme Court in tribute
6	to Associate Justice Antonin Scalia.
7	The Court recognizes the Acting Solicitor
8	General of the United States.
9	GENERAL GERSHENGORN: Mr. Chief Justice, and
10	may it please the Court:
11	At a meeting today of the Bar of this Court,
12	resolutions memorializing our deep respect and affection
13	for Justice Scalia were adopted unanimously.
14	Today, the Bar of this Court convenes to pay
15	respect to a towering figure in American law, a Justice
16	of conviction, character, and courage, a treasured
17	colleague, an irreplaceable mentor, and a man devoted to
18	his country, its Constitution, and this Court.
19	In his nearly 30-year tenure on this Court,
20	Antonin Scalia displayed a forceful intellect, a
21	remarkable wit, and an inimitable writing style. His
22	ideas helped to shape the way we think about law. And
23	for those blessed to know him, his compassion, humanity,
24	and commitment to his family, friends, and faith will
25	remain an inspiration.

1 Antonin Scalia was born on March 11th, 1936

- 2 in Trenton, New Jersey, and grew up in the Elmhurst
- 3 neighborhood of Queens. After graduating from Xavier
- 4 High School in Manhattan and Georgetown University,
- 5 Justice Scalia attended Harvard Law School.
- 6 Although he relished the academic
- 7 environment at Harvard, the signal event of his Harvard
- 8 years occurred outside the classroom, when he met
- 9 Maureen McCarthy. Their 55-year marriage produced nine
- 10 children and dozens of grandchildren.
- 11 Following a stint in private practice,
- 12 Justice Scalia accepted a post at the University of
- 13 Virginia School of Law in 1967, and then held a series
- 14 of government positions that culminated in his serving
- 15 as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal
- 16 Counsel in the Department of Justice.
- 17 In 1977, Justice Scalia returned to
- 18 academia, joining the University of Chicago faculty. In
- 19 1982, President Reagan nominated him to the U.S. Court
- 20 of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. And
- 21 then, in 1986, President Reagan nominated Justice Scalia
- 22 to this Court.
- 23 Over the next three decades, Justice Scalia
- left his mark on the law in numerous ways, too many to
- 25 recount in full here. His steadfast commitment to the

- 1 idea that external legal principles, rather than
- 2 internal policy preference, should govern judicial
- 3 decision making made him deeply respectful of the
- 4 Constitution's allocation of powers and vigilant in
- 5 respecting legal texts.
- That commitment showed up first and most
- 7 often in his views on statutory interpretation. Justice
- 8 Scalia pressed the proposition that, when interpreting a
- 9 statutory text, judges must try to discern and enforce
- 10 the meanings of words enacted by Congress to express its
- 11 policies.
- In his view, courts should never rewrite a
- 13 discernible statutory text to conform it to a law's
- 14 unenacted legislative purposes. This new textualism had
- 15 an undeniable impact on the way the Court does business.
- 16 Just as Justice Scalia believed that courts
- 17 should do their best to honor a statute's text, he
- 18 thought the same should be true for the Constitution.
- 19 As he saw it, the words of the Constitution bear the
- 20 same meaning today as they did when adopted, neither
- 21 diminished, nor augmented. He thus voted against
- 22 recognition of new rights that he believed lacked a
- 23 foundation in the Constitutional's -- Constitution's
- 24 original meaning, resisting limitations on Democratic
- 25 self-government that he believed the people did not vote

- 1 to impose. At the same time, he insisted on unyielding
- 2 enforcement of those restrictions that he believed the
- 3 people did vote to impose in the text of the
- 4 Constitution.
- 5 By the end of Justice Scalia's tenure, a
- 6 focus on the original public meaning of the
- 7 Constitution's text had become, if not orthodoxy, a
- 8 thoroughly respectable and commonplace approach to
- 9 constitutional interpretation. His approach was perhaps
- 10 best illustrated in two particularly noteworthy
- 11 opinions: District of Columbia v. Heller, holding that
- 12 the Second Amendment protects an individual right to
- 13 keep and bear arms for self-defense, and Crawford v.
- 14 Washington, interpreting the Sixth Amendment's
- 15 Confrontation Clause.
- 16 Although Justice Scalia may be best known
- 17 for his views on statutory and constitutional
- 18 interpretation, his first love was an area of
- 19 substantive law, constitutional structure, which shaped
- 20 his answers to the underlying questions that appear in
- 21 every case, who decides, and how.
- 22 Throughout his tenure, Justice Scalia sought
- 23 to honor the Constitution's structure, its distinct
- 24 horizontal and vertical lines of power. He appreciated
- 25 that men and women were not angels, and that electing or

1 appointing them to government posts did not make it

- 2 otherwise.
- Justice Scalia believed that by assigning
- 4 three distinct kinds of government power to three
- 5 distinct branches of government, the Constitution
- 6 prevented the concentration of government power in the
- 7 same hands.
- 8 Justice Scalia likewise regarded the
- 9 Constitution's vertical separation of power, Federalism,
- 10 as a core feature of the Constitution's structure that
- 11 needed to be preserved. He joined the Court's
- 12 decisions, recognizing limits on Congress's power to
- 13 regulate interstate commerce, and upholding the State's
- 14 sovereign immunity from suit. In these areas, as in so
- 15 many others, Justice Scalia had a -- profound effect on
- 16 the Court's jurisprudence.
- 17 Of course, no account of Justice Scalia's
- 18 contribution to this Court would be complete without
- 19 mentioning his remarkably clear and vivid writing, and
- 20 the inventive, memorable images sprinkled throughout.
- 21 The images were memorable precisely because they
- 22 captured the substance of the legal point the Justice
- 23 was making. Surely there was a separation of powers
- 24 problem with the creation of what he called a sort of
- 25 junior varsity Congress. And surely, there was a deep

- 1 flaw in a dormant Commerce Clause test that asked judges
- 2 to divine, as he put it, whether a particular line is
- 3 longer than a particular rock is heavy.
- 4 And while Justice Scalia's writing
- 5 frequently left -- leapt off the page, advocates before
- 6 the Court often confronted his tenacity and his wit long
- 7 before he unsheathed his pen. He peppered lawyers with
- 8 questions, sometimes posing 30 or 40 in a single
- 9 argument. And if he found an answer unsatisfactory, he
- 10 pursued the point through short, often flinty-minded,
- 11 follow-up inquiries.
- 12 Throughout his judicial career, Justice
- 13 Scalia maintained his collection -- connection with the
- 14 law schools by accepting countless invitations to speak
- 15 with students and professors.
- And, in one sense, he never really left
- 17 teaching. His classroom just got bigger. He often
- 18 thought of the audience of his opinions as today's and
- 19 tomorrow's law students, and he relished opportunities
- 20 to talk to students about his theories of judging and
- 21 about the many useful ways to use a law degree.
- 22 Justice Scalia's productivity and many
- 23 contributions to the law could leave one with the
- 24 misimpression that he left little time for anything
- 25 else. And, of course, that was not so. This son of

- 1 Trenton and Queens became an avid hunter and fisherman.
- 2 He relished meals with friends and colleagues and law
- 3 clerks, often at the much-beloved A.V.'s, and usually
- 4 with an anchovy pizza and an occasional glass of red
- 5 wine.
- 6 He was an ever-present mentor to his many
- 7 law clerks. And, of course, he was deeply devoted to
- 8 his large and remarkably close family.
- 9 And through it all, the Justice did
- 10 everything in his brim-filled -- brim-filled life with
- 11 unstinting vigor, curiosity, engagement, and a twinkle
- 12 in his eye.
- 13 Gathered here together, looking back at his
- 14 life, the members of the Bar of the Supreme Court
- 15 express our deepest respect for the late Justice Antonin
- 16 Scalia, our loss at his passing from this life, and our
- 17 enduring gratitude for the example he set in his life,
- 18 both within and beyond the law.
- 19 On behalf of the Bar of the Supreme Court,
- 20 it is my privilege to present the Court the resolutions
- 21 adopted today, so that the Attorney General may move
- their inscription on the Court's permanent record.
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, General
- 24 Gershengorn.
- 25 The Court recognizes the Attorney General of

- 1 the United States.
- 2 GENERAL LYNCH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
- 3 it please the Court:
- 4 The Bar of the Court met today to honor the
- 5 memory of Antonin G. Scalia, Associate Justice of the
- 6 Supreme Court from 1986 to 2016.
- 7 The passing of Justice Scalia has left an
- 8 enormous void in this courtroom and in the life of the
- 9 law throughout the United States. With his razor-sharp
- 10 brilliance and unmatched eloquence, Justice Scalia
- 11 transformed the way the jurists and lawyers approach the
- 12 law. He strode like a colossus through some of the most
- 13 important opinions, concurrences, and dissents of our
- 14 time, and he had a singular presence both in the
- 15 courtroom and on the page.
- 16 His penetrating questions at oral argument
- 17 did not merely seek to clarify minor nuances; they cut
- 18 to the heart of a position's flaws. And his writing did
- 19 not merely state the law, it captivated all who treasure
- 20 memorable and radiant prose.
- 21 And even those who disagreed with Justice
- 22 Scalia could appreciate his inspired wordsmithing, like
- 23 his assertion that Congress does not hide elephants in
- 24 mouseholes or his contention that the rule of law
- 25 requires a law of rules.

- 1 Justice Scalia's life was a quintessentially
- 2 American story. His father was a Sicilian immigrant who
- 3 came through Ellis Island as a teenager, earned a
- 4 doctorate from Columbia, and became a professor. His
- 5 mother was an elementary schoolteacher, herself the
- 6 daughter of Italian immigrants.
- 7 By all accounts, Justice Scalia's talent was
- 8 obvious from a young age: From Xavier High School in
- 9 Manhattan to Georgetown, where he graduated first in his
- 10 class, to Harvard Law School, where he edited the
- 11 Harvard Law Review. He was a charismatic student who
- 12 loved to debate. That charisma and his love of the
- 13 clash of ideas would come to define him.
- 14 With these gifts, he could have gone
- 15 anywhere and done anything. He could have conquered the
- 16 worlds of commerce or found a home within the business
- 17 of the law. But rather than pursue material wealth in
- 18 the private sector, he chose the wealth of ideas to be
- 19 found in academia. And instead of seeking public
- 20 acclaim, he turned to public service.
- 21 Law students at the University of Virginia,
- 22 as well as the University of Chicago, Georgetown, and
- 23 Stanford, benefited from his rigorous intellectualism
- 24 and love of the law. And we at the Department of
- 25 Justice also benefited from his dedication to public

- 1 service.
- 2 From 1974 to 1977, he served as the head of
- 3 the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of
- 4 Justice. The traits that would come to define Justice
- 5 Scalia's judicial presence were apparent in that role as
- 6 he provided written opinions that showcased his
- 7 intellectual rigor, his sharp pen, and his independent
- 8 mind.
- 9 He was also known for his fierce support of
- 10 the independence of the Office of Legal Counsel and of
- 11 the Department, traditions we are proud to uphold.
- 12 Justice Scalia's contributions to the
- 13 Supreme Court cannot be overstated. Countless pages
- 14 have been written about the textualist approach to
- 15 statutory interpretation he championed. In his three
- 16 decades on the bench, he succeeded in changing the very
- 17 way that lawyers and judges determine the meaning of
- 18 congressional enactments, and he fundamentally
- 19 transformed legal argument. As Justice Kagan noted in
- 20 her Scalia lecture at Harvard Law School, we're all
- 21 textualists now.
- 22 Justice Scalia will also be remembered for
- 23 his robust interpretations of the protections that the
- 24 Constitution affords those who come in contact with the
- 25 criminal justice system. His Fourth Amendment and Sixth

- 1 Amendment decisions regarding searches, the right to a
- 2 jury trial, and the Confrontation Clause fundamentally
- 3 shaped the way law enforcement officers investigate
- 4 potential wrongdoing, and the way prosecutors put on
- 5 their cases.
- The opinions are noteworthy for their
- 7 reliance on Justice Scalia's originalist approach to
- 8 interpreting the Constitution, a philosophy that looks
- 9 backwards in order to look forward. It looks back to
- 10 the founding of this great nation in an effort to
- 11 understand the protections reserved in the Constitution,
- 12 and it looks forward to demand that we uphold these
- 13 protections despite changing times.
- But Justice Scalia's greatest legacy may be
- 15 that he brought unmatched conviction and enthusiasm to
- 16 his jurisprudence. In doing so, he elevated our
- 17 national legal discourse for all Americans. He
- 18 challenged even those who agreed with him, and he earned
- 19 the respect of those who did not.
- 20 Lawyers who appeared before Justice Scalia
- 21 found themselves compelled to clarify their positions
- 22 and to sharpen their arguments. Readers of Justice
- 23 Scalia's opinions could not disregard the strength of
- 24 his reasoning and were forced to re-examine their own
- 25 convictions.

- 1 Justice Scalia knew that this was the point
- of debate, and he also knew that debate was the essence
- 3 of democracy. For decades, he had an outsized role in
- 4 the debates over the meaning of our most fundamental
- 5 principles: principles of liberty, justice, and
- 6 equality. And because of the brilliance, the eloquence,
- 7 and the unique passion he brought to that debate, he
- 8 guaranteed that he will continue to shape it for decades
- 9 to come.
- 10 Mr. Chief Justice, on behalf of the lawyers
- of this nation, and in particular, the members of this
- 12 Court's Bar, I respectfully request that the resolutions
- 13 presented to you in honor of Antonin Scalia be accepted
- 14 by the Court and that they, together with the chronicle
- of these proceedings, be ordered kept for all time in
- 16 the records of this Court.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, General
- 18 Lynch. Your request that the Bar resolutions be made
- 19 part of the permanent record of the Court is granted.
- 20 The Court extends to the members of the
- 21 Resolutions Committee, to the members of the
- 22 Arrangements Committee, and to the Chairman of today's
- 23 meeting of the Bar our appreciation for the resolutions
- 24 adopted today.
- 25 Antonin Scalia was nominated to the U.S.

- 1 Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by President
- 2 Reagan on July 15th, 1982. He joined that court on
- 3 August 17 that same year. And just four years later,
- 4 President Reagan nominated him to be our 103rd Supreme
- 5 Court Justice.
- At the time of the White House announcement,
- 7 he was not well-known to the public. The press had to
- 8 ask Justice Scalia how to pronounce both his first and
- 9 last names.
- 10 (Laughter.)
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Antonin Scalia was
- 12 confirmed on Constitution Day in 1986 by a vote of 98-0.
- 13 He took the oath of office as an Associate Justice of
- 14 this Court on September 26th, 1986. Today, every lawyer
- 15 and journalist in this country, and most other citizens
- 16 as well know how to pronounce Justice Antonin Scalia.
- 17 In nearly three decades on this Court,
- 18 Justice Scalia wrote, by our count, 282 opinions for the
- 19 Court, beginning with O'Connor v. United States, which
- 20 he announced exactly 30 years ago today, and ending with
- 21 Kansas v. Carr, which he announced on January 20 of this
- 22 year.
- 23 He was also known to write separately from
- 24 time to time --
- 25 (Laughter.)

1	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: authoring more
2	than 300 concurrences and nearly as many dissents. He
3	served with 17 other Justices during his long tenure on
4	this Court.
5	You have already heard of Justice Scalia's
6	extraordinary legacy. On matters of constitutional
7	interpretation, he championed the judicial philosophy of
8	originalism, a view that the Constitution means today
9	what it meant when it was adopted. He espoused this
LO	approach in opinions, both for the Court and in dissent,
L1	that are now a central feature of every law school's
L2	constitutional curriculum.
L3	His opinions explaining our Constitution's
L 4	structural constraints on governmental power are among
L5	the most important intellectual contributions to the
L 6	study of liberty since The Federalist Papers.
L7	Justice Scalia defended the president's
L8	power to appoint and remove executive officials, not to
L 9	aggrandize presidential power, but to maintain the
20	equilibrium between co-equal branches of government. He
21	insisted that Congress perform the duties within its
22	Constitutional charge and leave other matters alone, not
23	to manage the legislative process, but to promote
24	individual freedom through electoral accountability.
25	He approached the judicial branch with the

- 1 same rigor. Justice Scalia demanded that Federal courts
- 2 stay within their constitutionally prescribed role of
- 3 deciding only concrete cases and controversies. He did
- 4 so not to avoid difficult issues, but to ensure that
- 5 judges who are insulated from the political process
- 6 resolve only those matters within Article III's grant of
- 7 judicial power.
- 8 Justice Scalia applied originalist scrutiny
- 9 to interpreting the Bill of Rights. His views were
- 10 especially influential with respect to the First
- 11 Amendment's religion clauses, the Second Amendment's
- 12 right to bear arms, and the Sixth Amendment's
- 13 Confrontation Clause. He persuasively explained how the
- 14 guarantees set forth 225 years ago continue to provide
- 15 vital protections in our own age. Writing for the Court
- in cases involving the Fourth Amendment, he demonstrated
- 17 how the centuries-old protections against unreasonable
- 18 searches and seizures reach contemporary police
- 19 investigatory tools, ranging from thermal imaging to
- 20 electronic tracking devices to drug-sniffing dogs. He
- 21 once commented that his opinions on the scope of
- 22 criminal law safequards in the Bill of Rights should
- 23 make him the favorite Justice among criminal defendants
- 24 across the country.
- 25 (Laughter.)

- 1 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Now, whether he
- 2 wrote for the Court or in dissent, Justice Scalia's
- 3 incisive analysis and unforgettable prose compelled
- 4 jurists, lawyers, and citizens alike to think deeply
- 5 about the meaning of the compact that binds us.
- 6 Justice Scalia left an equally enduring mark
- 7 on statutory construction. His insistence on the
- 8 primacy of a statute's text has enforced greater
- 9 discipline on the task of construction. As he
- 10 explained, reliance on the statutory text restrains
- 11 judicial discretion and thereby promotes democracy.
- 12 Although Justice Scalia was a keen legal
- 13 theorist, he was deeply concerned about the practical
- 14 workings of government, and that intense focus is
- 15 reflected in his contributions to administrative law.
- 16 He made enduring contributions to that field as a
- 17 teacher, scholar, and Chairman of the Administrative
- 18 Conference of the United States, even before he became a
- 19 judge.
- 20 Whatever the discipline, whatever the role,
- 21 Justice Scalia was committed to finding the right
- 22 answer. And once he had settled upon what was right, he
- 23 let the chips fall where they may, and cared not a whit
- 24 what others thought about it.
- 25 Justice Scalia's voice is perhaps most

- 1 deeply missed in this very chamber. From his first day
- 2 on the bench, he was a vigorous participant in oral
- 3 argument. His insightful inquiries enlivened debate and
- 4 brought out the best in his colleagues and the attorneys
- 5 who appeared before him, on many occasions also
- 6 confirming that their best was not good enough.
- 7 (Laughter.)
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Now, it would be a
- 9 stretch to say that there was never a dull moment in
- 10 this chamber --
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- but often, just
- 13 when things were getting a bit soporific, counsel would
- 14 make some assertion that would trigger a reaction from
- 15 Justice Scalia, ranging from explosive to subtle, and
- 16 the game would be on.
- 17 His comments in this room also included
- 18 priceless sotto voce insights shared only with those
- 19 fortunate enough to sit beside him on the bench.
- 20 (Laughter.)
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Justice Scalia was
- 22 not restrained in stating his views clearly and
- 23 forcefully, but he never ceased being our dear friend
- 24 and valued colleague. He wrestled with ideas, not
- 25 people, and he knew the difference.

- 1 He made our days warmer, livelier, and
- 2 happier. He sang loudest and best at our traditional
- 3 birthday celebrations. He raised his glass highest to
- 4 toast others' happy occasions, and his rich laughter
- 5 filled our halls and our hearts.
- Justice Scalia's life reached far beyond the
- 7 law. He would never have said that the law was what was
- 8 most important to him. He was steadfast in his Roman
- 9 Catholic faith, and he was devoted beyond measure to his
- 10 beloved wife, Maureen, and the nine children they
- 11 raised.
- 12 On occasions such as this, speakers often
- 13 employ so many laudatory adjectives that the effect can
- 14 be to sow doubt rather than admiration. But no one who
- 15 knew Justice Scalia, however they viewed his work, would
- 16 dispute for a moment that he was patriotic, principled,
- 17 loyal, courageous, engaging, and brilliant.
- 18 Those of us on the Court will miss Nino, but
- 19 we will continue to feel his presence throughout this
- 20 building. Our ears will hear his voice in this
- 21 courtroom when advocates invoke his words searching for
- 22 powerful authority. Our minds will move to the measure
- 23 of his reason in our chambers when we study his
- 24 opinions. And our hearts will smile, even as our eyes
- 25 glisten, when we walk the halls and recall how happy we

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	analysis 19.2	10:14	huanah 16.25	l _{11:11}
<u>A</u>	analysis 18:3	19:14	branch 16:25 branches 7:5	
A.V.'s 9:3	anchovy 9:4	assigning 7:3	16:20	Chicago 4:18 11:22
academia 4:18	angels 6:25	Assistant 4:15	brilliance 10:10	-
11:19	announced	Associate 1:2	14:6	Chief 2:10 3:3,9 9:23 10:2
academic 4:6	15:20,21	3:6 10:5 15:13		
ACCEPT 2:6	announcement	attended 4:5	brilliant 20:17	14:10,17 15:11
accepted 4:12	15:6	Attorney 2:7	brim-filled 9:10	16:1 18:1 19:8
14:13	answer 8:9	4:15 9:21,25	9:10	19:12,21
accepting 8:14	18:22	attorneys 19:4	brought 13:15	children 4:10 20:10
acclaim 11:20	answers 6:20	audience 8:18	14:7 19:4	
account 7:17	Antonin 1:2 3:6	augmented 5:21	building 20:20	chips 18:23
accountability	3:20 4:1 9:15	August 15:3	business 5:15	chose 11:18
16:24	10:5 14:13,25	authoring 16:1	11:16	chronicle 14:14
accounts 11:7	15:11,16	authority 20:22	<u>C</u>	Circuit 4:20
Acting 2:4 3:7	apparent 12:5	avid 9:1	$\frac{\mathbf{C}}{\mathbf{C} 2:1 \ 3:1}$	15:1
adjectives 20:13	Appeals 4:20	avoid 17:4	called 7:24	citizens 15:15
administrative	15:1	В	caned 7.24 captivated 10:19	18:4
18:15,17	appear 6:20	back 9:13 13:9	captured 7:22	clarify 10:17
admiration	appeared 13:20	backwards 13:9	captured 7.22	13:21
20:14	19:5	Bar 3:5,11,14	career 8:12	clash 11:13
adopted 3:13	applied 17:8	9:14,19 10:4	Carr 15:21	class 11:10
5:20 9:21	appoint 16:18	14:12,18,23	case 6:21	classroom 4:8
14:24 16:9	appointing 7:1	bear 5:19 6:13	cases 13:5 17:3	8:17
advocates 8:5	appreciate	17:12	17:16	Clause 6:15 8:1
20:21	10:22		Catholic 20:9	13:2 17:13
affection 3:12	appreciated	beginning 15:19 behalf 9:19	ceased 19:23	clauses 17:11
affords 12:24	6:24	14:10	celebrations	clear 7:19
afternoon 3:4	appreciation		20:3	clearly 19:22
age 11:8 17:15	14:23	believed 5:16,22 5:25 6:2 7:3	central 16:11	clerks 9:3,7
AGENDA 2:2	approach 6:8,9	beloved 20:10	centuries-old	close 9:8
aggrandize	10:11 12:14		17:17	co-equal 16:20
16:19	13:7 16:10	bench 12:16 19:2,19	Chairman 14:22	colleague 3:17
ago 15:20 17:14	approached	benefited 11:23	18:17	19:24
agreed 13:18	16:25	11:25		colleagues 9:2
alike 18:4	area 6:18	best 5:17 6:10	challenged 13:18	19:4
allocation 5:4	areas 7:14		chamber 19:1	collection 8:13
Amendment	argument 8:9	6:16 19:4,6 20:2	19:10	colossus 10:12
6:12 12:25	10:16 12:19		chambers 20:23	Columbia 4:20
13:1 17:16	19:3	beyond 9:18		6:11 11:4
Amendment's	arguments	20:6,9	championed	come 11:13 12:4
6:14 17:11,11	13:22	bigger 8:17	12:15 16:7	12:24 14:9
17:12	arms 6:13 17:12	Bill 17:9,22	changing 12:16	commented
American 3:15	Arrangements	binds 18:5	13:13	17:21
11:2	14:22	birthday 20:3	character 3:16	comments 19:17
Americans	Article 17:6	bit 19:13	charge 16:22	commerce 7:13
13:17	asked 8:1	blessed 3:23	charisma 11:12	8:1 11:16
	assertion 10:23	born 4:1	charismatic	commitment
	•	•	•	

			1	
3:24 4:25 5:6	16:12,22	9:19,20,25	17:23	dozens 4:10
committed	Constitutional's	10:3,4,6 12:13	defended 16:17	drug-sniffing
18:21	5:23	14:14,16,19,20	define 11:13	17:20
Committee	constitutionally	15:1,2,5,14,17	12:4	dull 19:9
14:21,22	17:2	15:19 16:4,10	degree 8:21	duties 16:21
commonplace	constraints	17:15 18:2	demand 13:12	
6:8	16:14	20:18	demanded 17:1	E
compact 18:5	construction	Court's 7:11,16	democracy 14:3	E 2:1,7 3:1,1
compassion 3:23	18:7,9	9:22 14:12	18:11	earned 11:3
compelled 13:21	contact 12:24	courtroom 1:18	Democratic 5:24	13:18
18:3	contemporary	10:8,15 20:21	demonstrated	ears 20:20
complete 7:18	17:18	courts 5:12,16	17:16	edited 11:10
concentration	contention	17:1	Department	effect 7:15 20:13
7:6	10:24	Crawford 6:13	4:16 11:24	effort 13:10
concerned 18:13	continue 14:8	creation 7:24	12:3,11	electing 6:25
concluded 21:3	17:14 20:19	criminal 12:25	despite 13:13	electoral 16:24
concrete 17:3	contribution	17:22,23	determine 12:17	electronic 17:20
concurrences	7:18	culminated 4:14	devices 17:20	elementary 11:5
10:13 16:2	contributions	curiosity 9:11	devoted 3:17 9:7	elephants 10:23
Conference	8:23 12:12	curriculum	20:9	elevated 13:16
18:18	16:15 18:15,16	16:12	difference 19:25	Ellis 11:3
confirmed 15:12	controversies	cut 10:17	difficult 17:4	Elmhurst 4:2
confirming 19:6	17:3		diminished 5:21	eloquence 10:10
conform 5:13	convenes 3:14	<u> </u>	disagreed 10:21	14:6
Confrontation	conviction 3:16	D 3:1	discern 5:9	employ 20:13
6:15 13:2	13:15	D.C 1:20 15:1	discernible 5:13	enacted 5:10
17:13	convictions	daughter 11:6	discipline 18:9	enactments
confronted 8:6	13:25	day 15:12 19:1	18:20	12:18
Congress 5:10	core 7:10	days 20:1	discourse 13:17	enduring 9:17
7:25 10:23	corner 21:1	dear 19:23	discretion 18:11	18:6,16
16:21	counsel 4:16	debate 11:12	displayed 3:20	enforce 5:9
Congress's 7:12	12:3,10 19:13	14:2,2,7 19:3	dispute 20:16	enforced 18:8
congressional	count 15:18	debates 14:4	disregard 13:23	enforcement 6:2
12:18	countless 8:14	decades 4:23	dissent 16:10	13:3
connection 8:13	12:13	12:16 14:3,8	18:2	engagement
conquered	country 3:18	15:17	dissents 10:13	9:11
11:15	15:15 17:24	decides 6:21	16:2	engaging 20:17
Constitution	courage 3:16	deciding 17:3	distinct 6:23 7:4	enlivened 19:3
3:18 5:18,19	courageous	decision 5:3	7:5	enormous 10:8
6:4 7:5 12:24	20:17	decisions 7:12	District 4:20	ensure 17:4
13:8,11 15:12	course 7:17 8:25	13:1	6:11	enthusiasm
16:8	9:7	dedication 11:25	divine 8:2	13:15
Constitution's	court 1:1,5,19	deep 3:12 7:25	doctorate 11:4	environment 4:7
5:4,23 6:7,23	3:3,5,7,10,11	deepest 9:15	dogs 17:20	equality 14:6
7:9,10 16:13	3:14,18,19	deeply 5:3 9:7	doing 13:16	equally 18:6
constitutional	4:19,22 5:15	18:4,13 19:1	dormant 8:1	equilibrium
6:9,17,19 16:6	7:18 8:6 9:14	defendants	doubt 20:14	16:20
	1	1	1	1

	l	I	ı	l
espoused 16:9	8:10	4:14 7:1,4,5,6	I	12:15 16:7
essence 14:2	focus 6:6 18:14	16:20 18:14	IAN 2:4	interpretations
event 4:7	follow-up 8:11	governmental	idea 5:1	12:23
ever-present 9:6	Following 4:11	16:14	ideas 3:22 11:13	interpreting 5:8
exactly 15:20	forced 13:24	graduated 11:9	11:18 19:24	6:14 13:8 17:9
example 9:17	forceful 3:20	graduating 4:3	III's 17:6	interstate 7:13
executive 16:18	forcefully 19:23	grandchildren	illustrated 6:10	inventive 7:20
explained 17:13	forth 17:14	4:10	images 7:20,21	investigate 13:3
18:10	fortunate 19:19	grant 17:6	imaging 17:19	investigatory
explaining	forward 13:9,12	granted 14:19	immigrant 11:2	17:19
16:13	found 8:9 11:16	gratitude 9:17	immigrants 11:6	invitations 8:14
explosive 19:15	11:19 13:21	great 13:10	immunity 7:14	invoke 20:21
express 5:10	foundation 5:23	greater 18:8	impact 5:15	involving 17:16
9:15	founding 13:10	greatest 13:14	important 10:13	irreplaceable
extends 14:20	four 15:3	grew 4:2	16:15 20:8	3:17
external 5:1	Fourth 12:25	guaranteed 14:8	impose 6:1,3	Island 11:3
extraordinary	17:16	guarantees	incisive 18:3	issues 17:4
16:6	freedom 16:24	17:14	included 19:17	Italian 11:6
eye 9:12	frequently 8:5		independence	ITEM 2:2
eyes 20:24	Friday 1:12	H	12:10	
	friend 19:23	H 2:4	independent	J
F	friends 3:24 9:2	halls 20:5,25	12:7	January 15:21
faculty 4:18	full 4:25	hands 7:7	individual 6:12	Jersey 4:2
faith 3:24 20:9	fundamental	happier 20:2	16:24	JOHN 2:10
fall 18:23	14:4	happy 20:4,25	influential 17:10	joined 7:11 15:2
family 3:24 9:8	fundamentally	Harvard 4:5,7,7	inimitable 3:21	joining 4:18
far 20:6	12:18 13:2	11:10,11 12:20	inquiries 8:11	journalist 15:15
father 11:2		head 12:2	19:3	JR 2:10
favorite 17:23	G	hear 20:20	inscription 9:22	judge 18:19
feature 7:10	G 2:10 3:1 10:5	heard 16:5	insightful 19:3	judges 5:9 8:1
16:11	game 19:16	heart 10:18	insights 19:18	12:17 17:5
Federal 17:1	Gathered 9:13	hearts 20:5,24	insisted 6:1	judging 8:20
Federalism 7:9	General 2:5,7	heavy 8:3	16:21	judicial 5:2 8:12
Federalist 16:16	3:8,9 4:15 9:21	held 4:13	insistence 18:7	12:5 16:7,25
feel 20:19	9:23,25 10:2	Heller 6:11	inspiration 3:25	17:7 18:11
field 18:16	14:17	helped 3:22	inspired 10:22	July 15:2
fierce 12:9	Georgetown 4:4	hide 10:23	insulated 17:5	junior 7:25
figure 3:15	11:9,22	High 4:4 11:8	intellect 3:20	jurisprudence
filled 20:5	Gershengorn	highest 20:3	intellectual 12:7	7:16 13:16
finding 18:21	2:4 3:9 9:24	holding 6:11	16:15	jurists 10:11
first 5:6 6:18	getting 19:13	home 11:16	intellectualism	18:4
11:9 15:8	gifts 11:14	honor 5:17 6:23	11:23	jury 13:2
17:10 19:1	glass 9:4 20:3	10:4 14:13	intense 18:14	justice 1:2 2:10
fisherman 9:1	glisten 20:25	horizontal 6:24	internal 5:2	3:3,6,9,13,15
flaw 8:1	good 19:6	House 15:6	interpretation	4:5,12,16,17
flaws 10:18	govern 5:2	humanity 3:23	5:7 6:9,18	4:21,23 5:7,16
flinty-minded	government	hunter 9:1	<u> </u>	6:5,16,22 7:3,8
	I	I	ı	I

7:15,17,22 8:4	17:22 18:15		missed 19:1	12:10 15:13
8:12,22 9:9,15	20:7,7		moment 19:9	officers 13:3
9:23 10:2,5,7	law's 5:13	maintain 16:19	20:16	officials 16:18
10:10,21 11:1	lawyer 15:14	maintained 8:13	mother 11:5	once 17:21
11:7,25 12:4,4	lawyers 8:7	making 5:3 7:23	mouseholes	18:22
12:12,19,22,25	10:11 12:17	man 3:17	10:24	opinions 6:11
13:7,14,20,22	13:20 14:10	manage 16:23	move 9:21 20:22	8:18 10:13
	18:4	Manhattan 4:4	much-beloved	12:6 13:6,23
14:1,5,10,17		11:9		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
15:5,8,11,13	leapt 8:5	March 4:1	9:3	15:18 16:10,13
15:16,18 16:1	leave 8:23 16:22	mark 4:24 18:6	N	17:21 20:24
16:5,17 17:1,8	lecture 12:20	marriage 4:9	$\overline{N2:1,13:1}$	opportunities
17:23 18:1,2,6	left 4:24 8:5,16	material 11:17		8:19
18:12,21,25	8:24 10:7 18:6	matters 16:6,22	names 15:9	oral 10:16 19:2
19:8,12,15,21	legacy 13:14	17:6	nation 13:10	order 13:9
19:21 20:6,15	16:6	Maureen 4:9	14:11	ordered 14:15
Justices 16:3	legal 4:15 5:1,5	20:10	national 13:17	original 5:24 6:6
	7:22 12:3,10	McCarthy 4:9	nearly 3:19	originalism 16:8
K	12:19 13:17	meals 9:2	15:17 16:2	originalist 13:7
Kagan 12:19	18:12	meaning 5:20,24	needed 7:11	17:8
Kansas 15:21	legislative 5:14	6:6 12:17 14:4	neighborhood	orthodoxy 6:7
keen 18:12	16:23	18:5	4:3	others' 20:4
keep 6:13	liberty 14:5		neither 5:20	outside 4:8
kept 14:15	16:16	meanings 5:10	never 5:12 8:16	outsized 14:3
kinds 7:4	life 9:10,14,16	means 16:8	19:9,23 20:7	overstated 12:13
knew 14:1,2	9:17 10:8 11:1	meant 16:9	new 4:2 5:14,22	overstateu 12.13
19:25 20:15		measure 20:9,22	nine 4:9 20:10	P
know 3:23 15:16	20:6	meeting 3:11	Nino 20:18	P 3:1
known 6:16 12:9	likewise 7:8	14:23	nominated 4:19	p.m 1:11 3:2
	limitations 5:24	members 9:14		21:2
15:23	limits 7:12	14:11,20,21	4:21 14:25	
	line 8:2	memorable 7:20	15:4	page 2:2 8:5
lacked 5:22	lines 6:24	7:21 10:20	noted 12:19	10:15
	little 8:24	MEMORIAL	noteworthy 6:10	
large 9:8	livelier 20:1	1:2	13:6	Papers 16:16
late 9:15	long 8:6 16:3	memorializing	November 1:12	part 14:19
laudatory 20:13	longer 8:3	3:12	nuances 10:17	participant 19:2
laughter 15:10	look 13:9	memory 10:5	numerous 4:24	particular 8:2,3
15:25 17:25	looking 9:13	men 6:25		14:11
19:7,11,20	looks 13:8,9,12	mentioning 7:19	0	particularly
20:4	LORETTA 2:7	_	O 2:1 3:1	6:10
law 3:15,22 4:5	loss 9:16	mentor 3:17 9:6	O'Connor 15:19	passing 9:16
4:13,24 6:19	loudest 20:2	merely 10:17,19	oath 15:13	10:7
8:14,19,21,23	love 6:18 11:12	met 4:8 10:4	obvious 11:8	passion 14:7
9:2,7,18 10:9	11:24	mind 12:8	occasional 9:4	patriotic 20:16
10:12,19,24,25		minds 20:22	occasions 19:5	pay 3:14
11:10,11,17,21	loved 11:12	minor 10:17	20:4,12	pen 8:7 12:7
11:24 12:20	loyal 20:17	misimpression	occurred 4:8	pen 8.7 12.7 penetrating
13:3 16:11	Lynch 2:7 10:2	8:24	office 4:15 12:3	
15.5 10.11	14:18		GIIICC 1.13 12.3	10:16
	•	•	•	•

				I
people 5:25 6:3	16:19	questions 6:20	remarkably	rounding 21:1
19:25	press 15:7	8:8 10:16	7:19 9:8	rule 10:24
peppered 8:7	pressed 5:8	quintessentially	remembered	rules 10:25
perform 16:21	prevented 7:6	11:1	12:22	
permanent 9:22	priceless 19:18		remove 16:18	$\frac{S}{S \times 1.2.1}$
14:19	primacy 18:8	$\frac{R}{R^{2.1}}$	request 2:6	S 2:1 3:1
persuasively	principled 20:16	R3:1	14:12,18	safeguards
17:13	principles 5:1	radiant 10:20	requires 10:25	17:22
philosophy 13:8	14:5,5	raised 20:3,11	reserved 13:11	sang 20:2
16:7	private 4:11	ranging 17:19	resisting 5:24	saw 5:19 21:1
pizza 9:4	11:18	19:15	resolutions 2:3,6	Scalia 1:2 3:6,13
please 3:10 10:3	privilege 9:20	razor-sharp	3:5,12 9:20	3:20 4:1,5,12
point 7:22 8:10	problem 7:24	10:9	14:12,18,21,23	4:17,21,23 5:8
14:1	proceedings	re-examine	resolve 17:6	5:16 6:16,22
police 17:18	14:15	13:24	respect 3:12,15	7:3,8,15 8:13
policies 5:11	process 16:23	reach 17:18	9:15 13:19	9:16 10:5,7,10
policy 5:2	17:5	reached 20:6	17:10	10:22 12:20,22
political 17:5	produced 4:9	reaction 19:14	respectable 6:8	13:20 14:1,13
posing 8:8	productivity	Readers 13:22	respectful 5:3	14:25 15:8,11
position's 10:18	8:22	Reagan 4:19,21	respectfully	15:16,18 16:17
positions 4:14	professor 11:4	15:2,4	14:12	17:1,8 18:6,12
13:21	professors 8:15	really 8:16	respecting 5:5	18:21 19:15,21
post 4:12	profound 7:15	reason 20:23	RESPONSE 2:9	20:15
posts 7:1	promote 16:23	reasoning 13:24	restrained 19:22	Scalia's 6:5 7:17
potential 13:4	promotes 18:11	recall 20:25	restrains 18:10	8:4,22 11:1,7
power 6:24 7:4,6	pronounce 15:8	receive 3:4	restrictions 6:2	12:5,12 13:7
7:9,12 16:14	15:16	recognition 5:22	returned 4:17	13:14,23 16:5
16:18,19 17:7	proposition 5:8	recognizes 3:7	Review 11:11	18:2,25 20:6
powerful 20:22	prose 10:20 18:3	9:25	rewrite 5:12	scholar 18:17
powers 5:4 7:23	prosecutors	recognizing 7:12	rich 20:4	School 4:4,5,13
practical 18:13	13:4	record 9:22	right 6:12 13:1	11:8,10 12:20
practice 4:11	protections	14:19	17:12 18:21,22	school's 16:11
precisely 7:21	12:23 13:11,13	records 14:16	rights 5:22 17:9	schools 8:14
preference 5:2	17:15,17	recount 4:25	17:22	schoolteacher
prescribed 17:2	protects 6:12	red 9:4	rigor 12:7 17:1	11:5
presence 10:14	proud 12:11	reflected 18:15	rigorous 11:23	scope 17:21
12:5 20:19	provide 17:14	regarded 7:8	ROBERTS 2:10	scrutiny 17:8
present 9:20	provided 12:6	regarding 13:1	3:3 9:23 14:17	searches 13:1
PRESENTAT	public 6:6 11:19	regulate 7:13	15:11 16:1	17:18
2:3	11:20,25 15:7	reliance 13:7	18:1 19:8,12	searching 20:21
presented 14:13	purposes 5:14	18:10	19:21	Second 6:12
preserved 7:11	pursue 11:17	religion 17:11	robust 12:23	17:11
President 4:19	pursued 8:10	relished 4:6 8:19	rock 8:3	sector 11:18
4:21 15:1,4	put 8:2 13:4	9:2	role 12:5 14:3	seek 10:17
president's		remain 3:25	17:2 18:20	seeking 11:19
16:17	Q	remarkable	Roman 20:8	seizures 17:18
presidential	Queens 4:3 9:1	3:21	room 19:17	self-defense 6:13

	-	ī	ī	•
self-government	Stanford 11:23	task 18:9	treasured 3:16	v 6:11,13 15:19
5:25	state 10:19	teacher 18:17	Trenton 4:2 9:1	15:21
sense 8:16	State's 7:13	teaching 8:17	trial 13:2	valued 19:24
separately 15:23	States 1:1,19 2:5	teenager 11:3	tribute 3:5	varsity 7:25
separation 7:9	2:8,11 3:8 10:1	tenacity 8:6	trigger 19:14	vertical 6:24 7:9
7:23	10:9 15:19	tenure 3:19 6:5	true 5:18	view 5:12 16:8
September	18:18	6:22 16:3	try 5:9	viewed 20:15
15:14	stating 19:22	test 8:1	turned 11:20	views 5:7 6:17
series 4:13	statute's 5:17	text 5:9,13,17	twinkle 9:11	17:9 19:22
served 12:2 16:3	18:8	6:3,7 18:8,10	two 6:10	vigilant 5:4
service 11:20	statutory 5:7,9	texts 5:5		vigor 9:11
12:1	5:13 6:17	textualism 5:14	U	vigorous 19:2
serving 4:14	12:15 18:7,10	textualist 12:14	U.S 4:19 14:25	Virginia 4:13
Session 1:5 3:4	stay 17:2	textualists 12:21	unanimously	11:21
21:3	steadfast 4:25	Thank 9:23	3:13	vital 17:15
set 9:17 17:14	20:8	14:17	undeniable 5:15	vivid 7:19
settled 18:22	stint 4:11	theories 8:20	underlying 6:20	voce 19:18
shape 3:22 14:8	story 11:2	theorist 18:13	understand	voice 18:25
shaped 6:19	strength 13:23	thermal 17:19	13:11	20:20
13:3	stretch 19:9	things 19:13	unenacted 5:14	void 10:8
shared 19:18	strode 10:12	think 3:22 18:4	unforgettable	vote 5:25 6:3
sharp 12:7	structural 16:14	thoroughly 6:8	18:3	15:12
sharpen 13:22	structure 6:19	thought 5:18	unique 14:7	voted 5:21
short 8:10	6:23 7:10	8:18 18:24	United 1:1,19	
showcased 12:6	student 11:11	three 4:23 7:4,4	2:5,8,11 3:8	
showed 5:6	students 8:15,19	12:15 15:17	10:1,9 15:19	walk 20:25
Sicilian 11:2	8:20 11:21	time 6:1 8:24	18:18	warmer 20:1
signal 4:7	study 16:16	10:14 14:15	University 4:4	Washington
single 8:8	20:23	15:6,24,24	4:12,18 11:21	1:20 6:14
singular 10:14	style 3:21	times 13:13	11:22 unmatched	way 3:22 5:15 10:11 12:17
sit 19:19	substance 7:22	toast 20:4	10:10 13:15	
Sixth 6:14 12:25	substantive 6:19	. ,	unreasonable	13:3,4 ways 4:24 8:21
17:12	subtle 19:15	5:20 9:21 10:4	17:17	we're 12:20
smile 20:24	succeeded 12:16	14:24 15:14,20	unsatisfactory	wealth 11:17,18
Solicitor 2:4 3:7	suit 7:14	16:8	8:9	well-known
son 8:25	support 12:9	today's 8:18	unsheathed 8:7	15:7
soporific 19:13	Supreme 1:1,5	14:22	unstinting 9:11	whit 18:23
sort 7:24	1:19 3:5 9:14	tomorrow's 8:19	unyielding 6:1	White 15:6
sotto 19:18	9:19 10:6 12:13 15:4	tools 17:19	uphold 12:11	wife 20:10
sought 6:22		towering 3:15	13:12	wine 9:5
sovereign 7:14 sow 20:14	surely 7:23,25 system 12:25	tracking 17:20 traditional 20:2	upholding 7:13	wit 3:21 8:6
sow 20.14 speak 8:14	system 14.43	traditions 12:11	use 8:21	women 6:25
speak 8.14 speakers 20:12	T	traits 12:4	useful 8:21	words 5:10,19
Special 1:5 3:4	T 2:1,1	transformed	usually 9:3	20:21
21:2	talent 11:7	10:11 12:19		wordsmithing
sprinkled 7:20	talk 8:20	treasure 10:19	V	10:22
Sprinkled 7.20	<u> </u>	Tensure 10.17	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

			28
	1	1	ı .
work 20:15	3		
workings 18:14	3 2:5		
worlds 11:16	3:00 1:11 3:2		
wrestled 19:24	3:24 21:2		
write 15:23	30 8:8 15:20		
writing 3:21			
7:19 8:4 10:18	30-year 3:19		
17:15	300 16:2		
	4		
written 12:6,14			
wrongdoing	41:12		
13:4	40 8:8		
wrote 15:18			
18:2	5		
	55-year 4:9		
X			
Xavier 4:3 11:8	6		
T 7	7		
Y			
year 15:3,22	8		
years 4:8 15:3	<u> </u>		
15:20 17:14	9		
young 11:8	-		
	98-0 15:12		
Z			
0			
1			
10 2:8			
103rd 15:4			
11th 4:1			
14 2:11			
15th 15:2			
17 15:3 16:3			
1936 4:1			
1967 4:13			
1974 12:2			
1977 4:17 12:2			
1982 4:19 15:2			
1986 4:21 10:6			
15:12,14			
2			
20 15:21			
2016 1:12 10:6			
225 17:14			
26th 15:14			
282 15:18			
202 13.10			